In the Claims

For the convenience of the Examiner, all pending claims are set forth below, whether or not an amendment is made. Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for enabling a service in a network environment, comprising:

a gateway general packet radio service (GPRS) support node (GGSN) operable to:

establish a communication link with an end user;

receive signaling information ~~associated with~~ through the communication link, the signaling information comprising an access point name (APN) identifying the end user;

recognize that the end user belongs to a designated multicast service group; ~~group associated with the end user;~~

correlate the APN to the multicast service group to provide one or more multicast services to the end user;

store the correlation between the APN and the multicast service group in a table within the GGSN;

inform a network element to send any packets designated for the multicast service group to the GGSN;

receive a plurality of packets designated for the multicast service group from the network element; and

determine the APN correlated to the multicast service group to forward the plurality of packets to the end user.

2. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 1, further comprising:

a table included within the GGSN and operable to store the correlation between the end user and the multicast service group associated with the end user.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Canceled)

5. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein one or more of the multicast services is provided in a selected one of an audio stream format and a video stream format.

6. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the GGSN is further operable to perform joining and leaving operations associated with the end user joining and leaving one or more multicast service group communication sessions.

7. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the GGSN is further operable to forward Internet protocol (IP) multicast traffic associated with the multicast service group to the end user.

8. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the GGSN is further operable to replicate one or more packets associated with a selected one of the multicast services and to deliver the packets to one or more communication tunnels associated with one or more end users that belong to the multicast service group.

9. (Currently Amended) A method for enabling a service in a network environment, comprising:

establishing a communication link with an end user;

receiving, at a gateway general packet radio service (GPRS) support node (GGSN), signaling information ~~associated with~~ through the communication link, the signaling information comprising an access point name (APN) identifying the end user;

recognizing, by the GGSN, that the end user belongs to a designated multicast service group; ~~group associated with the end user;~~

correlating the APN to the multicast service group to provide one or more multicast services to the end user;

storing the correlation between the APN and the multicast service group in a table within the GGSN;

informing, by the GGSN, a network element to send any packets designated for the multicast service group to the GGSN;

receiving, at the GGSN, a plurality of packets designated for the multicast service group from the network element; and

determining, by the GGSN, the APN correlated to the multicast service group to forward the plurality of packets to the end user.

10. (Original) The method of Claim 9, further comprising:

storing the correlation between the end user and the multicast service group associated with the end user in a table.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Original) The method of Claim 9, further comprising:

performing joining and leaving operations associated with the end user joining and leaving one or more multicast service group communication sessions.

13. (Original) The method of Claim 9, further comprising:

forwarding Internet protocol (IP) multicast traffic associated with the multicast service group to the end user.

14. (Original) The method of Claim 9, further comprising:

replicating one or more packets associated with a selected one of the multicast services; and

delivering the packets to one or more communication tunnels associated with one or more end users that belong to the multicast service group.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Canceled)

17. (Canceled)

18. (Canceled)

19. (Canceled)

20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently Amended) Software for enabling a service in a network environment, the software being embodied in a computer readable medium and comprising computer code such that when executed is operable to:

establish a communication link with an end user;

receive, at a gateway general packet radio service (GPRS) support node (GGSN), signaling information ~~associated with~~ through the communication link, the signaling information comprising an access point name (APN) identifying the end user;

recognize, by the GGSN, that the end user belongs to a designated multicast service group; ~~group associated with the end user;~~

correlate the APN to the multicast service group to provide one or more multicast services to the end user;

store the correlation between the APN and the multicast service group in a table within the GGSN;

inform, by the GGSN, a network element to send any packets designated for the multicast service group to the GGSN;

receive, at the GGSN, a plurality of packets designated for the multicast service group from the network element; and

determine, by the GGSN, the APN correlated to the multicast service group to forward the plurality of packets to the end user.

22. (Original) The medium of Claim 21, wherein the code is further operable to:

store the correlation between the end user and the multicast service group associated with the end user in a table.

23. (Canceled)

24. (Original) The medium of Claim 21, wherein the code is further operable to:

perform joining and leaving operations associated with the end user joining and leaving one or more multicast service group communication sessions.

25. (Original) The medium of Claim 21, wherein the code is further operable to:

forward Internet protocol (IP) multicast traffic associated with the multicast service group to the end user.

26. (Original) The medium of Claim 21, wherein the code is further operable to:

replicate one or more packets associated with a selected one of the multicast services; and

deliver the packets to one or more communication tunnels associated with one or more end users that belong to the multicast service group.